

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

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Motorcyclist Killed On I-5 In Thurston County

A California man was killed when he lost control of his motorcycle on northbound I-5 at milepost 90 and was thrown from his motorcycle underneath a semi-truck. All northbound lanes were closed for almost four hours. The southbound lanes had a 10 mile back up from on lookers.

The July 27th incident occurred at approximately 5:45 p.m. when the State Patrol began to receive reports of a motorcycle down on northbound I-5 at milepost 90 just south of the Scatter Creek Rest Area. According to witnesses, 52 year-old Gregory Allen Banks of Le Grand, California was driving black 1996 Harley Davidson motorcycle in the left of two lanes Northbound I-5 at milepost 90. Traffic ahead began to slow and Banks applied his brakes hard causing the rear wheel to lock up. Banks was thrown from his motorcycle into the right lane and was run over by the rear tires of a 1989 Kenworth semi-truck driven by 35 year-old Eugenio Herrera of Everett.

Sadly, Banks sustained life-threatening injuries and died at the scene. Herrera was not injured and at first was unaware he had run over Banks. Banks was wearing a helmet but Troopers do not believe it was Dept. of Transportation (DOT) approved as required by Washington law. Investigators do believe speed may have been a factor in this tragic collision.

Washington State has had a growing problem with motorcycle fatalities. Analysis of motorcycle crash data indicates that approximately 60 % of motorcycle fatalities are single vehicle incidents, with the most common causes being excessive speed, impaired driving, and inability to stay in the lane. Troopers do not believe alcohol was a factor in this collision.

Next of Kin HAS Been Notified